

chicks roost on the adjoining high grounds and some of them move to occupy the bank of the Tata Lake near Lonavla town.

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16. RUDDY TURNSTONE *ARENARIA INTERPRES* LINN.
AT PHULERA LAKE, RAJASTHAN

On September 5, 1999 we were at Phulera Lake, Jaipur district, hoping to see some early migrant birds. The first glimpse of the lake was not very promising, as the lake was dry. Rather disappointed, we decided to proceed to Sambhar Lake. Nevertheless, before leaving, H.S.S. decided to have a look at the few birds on the lake. While scanning the birds, he noticed a ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Linn.

The bird was on the northern side of the lake, where part of the lake bed is covered with small stones. This part of the lake is usually inundated, but that year it was almost dry, save for one extremely shallow patch of water.

The bird was a male in breeding plumage with distinctly patterned black and white upper parts and extensive orange-brown on scapulars and wing coverts. We observed the typical feeding method for more than 10 minutes before it flew away. In flight, its bold white wing bar and elongated white patch on the back, and white upper tail coverts were clearly seen.

There are not many inland records of the ruddy turnstone in the Indian subcontinent.

According to Ali and Ripley (1980) there are 'very few definite records of overland migration in India'. They describe it as an 'exceptional vagrant inland'. Roberts (1992) writes that it has not been sighted on inland freshwater bodies in Pakistan. Ali and Ripley (1980) mention records of the species from Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) Patna (Bihar), Sambhar Lake and Bharatpur (Rajasthan) and Manipur in the last 95 years. However, it has also been recorded from Najafgarh near Delhi (Ganguly 1975) and Harike in Punjab (Robson 1997). Our sighting of the species at Phulera is an addition to the existing inland records.

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